



Mexican children on science field trip.

The first of these is "Applications of Educational Technology and New Methods and Equipment in Science Teaching," arranged by Thomas Taylor (Department of Chemistry, University

of the Americas, P.O. Box 507, Puebla, Puebla, Mexico). This session runs consecutively 25-27 June, inclusive, in the afternoons and possibly in the evenings. Taylor is also arranging "The Utilization

of Educational Technology" mentioned earlier, and he is planning extensive extracurricular activities including an exhibit before and after the week of the central theme. He may be contacted directly for information on these subjects.

The second symposium, entitled "Educational Planning," (29-30 June) is arranged by Donald Adams (International Education Program, University of Pittsburgh). He is also responsible for "The Role of Planning in Education." These symposiums should be of particular interest to specialists in their respective fields.

It is envisioned that at least 30 participants from the United States, Canada, Mexico, and the remainder of Latin America will take an active part in presenting papers during this week, but it is hoped that a considerably larger number of attendees will participate in other ways.

ALBERT V. BAEZ

*University of Maryland,
College Park*

27-28 June

Sociolinguistics and Language Planning

Language plays a crucial role in human social interaction; it is the major vehicle for education and socialization. The colonial history of the Americas has produced significant ethnic and linguistic pluralism usually accompanied by painful social inequalities among language groups. The large native American (Indian) populations of Latin America, the Chicanos and Puerto Ricans in the United States, and the speakers of creolized forms or stigmatized dialects of the official languages in urban centers are currently the targets of extensive sociolinguistic research and its application in educational reforms, leading in some cases to radical changes in national legislation.

The symposium on "Sociolinguistics and Language Planning" (27-28 June 1973) will focus on the assessment and solution of problems in specific situations of language contact and bilingualism on the one hand, and on a discussion of fundamental issues of language research and planning on the other.

Symposium speakers and discussants include scholars from Mexico, Bolivia, Jamaica, Paraguay, Peru, the United

States, and Canada who have been active in both the fundamental research on language conflict situations, and in the application of its results in formulating language policies to resolve the conflict and to prepare programs for practical implementation on a regional and national level. They will be joined by representatives from national research institutes and governmental ministries who are currently involved in the decision-making process.

Topics presented for discussion will cover linguistic, social, psychological, and educational aspects of bilingualism and language contact or conflict, the problem of language standardization, the preparation of teaching materials, and the role of the media as factors in the planning process. The presentation of some special cases and the participation of discussants with extensive practical experience will provide close contact with concrete situations and, thus, a testing ground for methods and theories proposed and elaborated during the symposium.

Interpretations and discussions are open to all attendants at the AAAS/CONACYT meeting. They should be

especially interesting and valuable to linguists, educators and educational administrators, officers of governmental planning agencies, and teachers at all levels of instruction. Psychologists, sociologists, and anthropologists will find the concerns of this symposium very close to certain aspects of their fields.

WOLFGANG WÖLCK

*State University of New York at
Buffalo*

29-30 June

Educational Planning

Since educational planning has many definitions, deciding how to design the program on educational planning generated considerable frustration. Economists, system analysts, futurologists, and educational administrators all view planning from quite different perspectives. Moreover, the process of educational planning is constrained by time (there is short-, middle-, and long-term planning) and space (there is national, regional, local, and institutional planning).

For the Mexico City meetings discussions will focus on middle- and

long-term educational planning. The spatial constraints are essentially the Americas with occasional reference to selected European experiences. The emphasis usually remains at the national or regional level with occasional application of educational planning models at the institutional level. Many disciplines will be represented among the speakers and participants.

In terms of organization, there are three ½-day sessions (28–29 June) supplemented by evening round tables. A general session will be held on the first morning to provide distinguished scholars and educational leaders from a number of countries with the opportunity to speak on the future directions of educational planning. In particular, papers presented at this session will highlight the need for, and demonstrate approaches to, the inclusion of qualitative aspects in the planning of education. The second session, through a series of case studies, will examine the application of quantitative, computerized models in sectoral and institutional planning in education. The utility of these models will be carefully evaluated.

During the final session papers will be presented concerning the political, social, and administrative influences on the educational planning process. Improvements in the sophistication of educational technology have not guaranteed that the needed educational change will result from planning efforts. Therefore, in this session the obstacles to the implementation of educational change are explicitly and empirically examined. In addition to the three main sessions there will be a number of round table discussions where small groups of participants have the opportunity to discuss in more detail issues raised by the formal papers.

The program on educational planning will bring together, in most cases for the first time, significantly large numbers of educational planners from the Americas. The formal presentations and the work sessions are designed to describe and evaluate the most recent developments in the field of educational planning. Subsequent to the conference, attempts will be made to foster, through publication and organizational and individual means, continued exchanges of ideas and information.

DON ADAMS

School of Education, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

29–30 June

Health and Illness, Birth and Death

Modern medical technology has offered greater control at both ends of the life cycle and altered our notions of health and illness in between. But control, in turn, implies conscious decision-making; and as the area of conscious decision-making over reproduction and prolongation of life, over standards of health and treatment of illness, has grown, fundamental questions about birth, death, health, and illness are forced to the surface. To what extent are our definitions of "health" and "illness" influenced or modified by the existence of medical technology—or by the mere prospects of developing such technology? What values will guide our new-found control over reproduction and death? And how will these values be expressed in social institutions?

The Mexico City meeting will provide an excellent opportunity for dealing with such questions from both cross-cultural and interdisciplinary perspectives. Accordingly, the Institute of Society, Ethics and the Life Sciences has organized a 2 day symposium (29–30 June) beginning with explorations of the cultural meaning of health and illness in primitive, transitional, and technological societies. Papers on these topics will be given by Stanley Diamond (New School for Social Research, New York), Antonio Ordóñez-

Plaja (former Minister of Health, Bogotá, Colombia), and David Mechanic (Graduate Training in Medical Sociology and Mental Health, University of Wisconsin, Madison).

The second day's discussions will focus on the significance of birth and children for different cultures and different socioeconomic groups in Mexico and the United States, the care of terminal patients, the symbol of death in Mexican literature, the impact of life-prolonging technology on traditional attitudes toward death in Latin America. Pablo Pindas (Instituto Mexicano de Estudios Sociales, Mexico City), Robert Coles (Harvard University Health Services, Cambridge, Massachusetts), Emir Rodríguez Monegal (Latin American Studies, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut), and Luis Weinstein (Center for Medical and Social Anthropology, Santiago, Chile), will participate in this day's program. Other commentators and panelists include Renée C. Fox (Department of Sociology, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia), Carlos Gual (Instituto Nacional de la Nutrición, Mexico City), and Amitai Etzioni (Center for Policy Research, New York City).

PETER STEINFELS

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Travel Grants for Latin Americans

A limited number of nonparticipant travel grants for the AAAS/CONACYT meeting in Mexico City are available. Their objective is to assist Latin Americans to attend the meeting. Only persons working in Latin American countries are eligible; no one from Mexico or the United States can qualify. Selected will be those whose research, educational, economic, or industrial role can profit by attending. The individual's potential for contributing to science and the translation of science into technology upon return to his own country will be among the selection criteria. (Recipients will be provided airline tickets.)

In order to provide an opportunity to the greatest number, applicants are expected to obtain matching funds or partial support from their universities, industry, or other employer.

Applicants are required to provide the following information: name, address, employer, position, area of interest, symposia of special interest, why attendance would be valuable, name of airline or other transportation required, and number of days attendance is desired. Applications should be sent to Dr. Richard Trumbull, AAAS, 1515 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20005.

Applications must be received by 1 May.